



PRESS RELEASE

MARITIME COMMUNITY BRINGS JOY TO SENIOR CITIZENS AT LUNAR NEW YEAR HONG BAO PRESENTATION

Singapore, 14 February 2008 – More than 350 senior citizens were invited for lunch with unionists and the maritime community as guests of a Maritime Lunar New Year Luncheon hosted by the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) at the Raffles City Convention Centre.

The senior citizens from the Henderson Senior Citizens Home and members of the SMOU also received traditional red packets from the Minister of State for Education and Manpower, Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister of State for Health & NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Mr Heng Chee How and maritime industry leaders including Singapore Shipping Association Chairman, Mr Teo Siong Seng and Singapore Maritime Employers Federation Chairman, Capt Francis Joseph.

In his address, Mr Gan commended SMOU for being proactive in helping older workers stay employable through initiatives such as the Seniors Employment Guidance Program.

He said, "In collaboration with Singapore's Workforce Development Agency and NTUC's Centre for Seniors, the programme helps SMOU's older members to understand the ageing process, financial planning as well as explore further employment opportunities.

Mr Gan also added, "SMOU has also set up the Seafarers Provident Fund to help members address the financial challenge of retirement. I am glad that SMOU is actively helping older workers to stay employed and meet their retirement needs."

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Emphasising the union's belief in caring and sharing with the community especially the senior citizens, SMOU President Captain Robin Foo said, "All of us at SMOU have constantly been helping our members and the community through various welfare schemes that address the needs of our members especially in the area of training and education".

He added, "With Wavelink Maritime International, the union's new training arm, seafaring members and the industry can choose from more than 45 seafarer training, upgrading and education programmes for a lifelong career."

The Lunar New Year celebration attended by more than 700 elderly folk, union members and the movers and shakers from the maritime community was the 16th such event held by SMOU since 1992.

The event is one of the many charity initiatives by SMOU & Wavelink to consistently contribute back to the community as part of the union's ongoing care and share program.

Since 1987, SMOU has contributed more than S\$2.1 million through various charity projects over the years.

About SMOU

The **Singapore Maritime Officers' Union** (SMOU) was established in 1951 to safeguard the interest and well-being of seafaring officers. The primary role of the organisation is to promote good industrial relations between members and their employers, improve the working conditions of members in the maritime industry through the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements negotiated on behalf of members and signed with shipping companies which employ them and to advance the cultural, recreational and educational aspirations of its members.

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About Wavelink

Wavelink Co-operative Ltd (Wavelink) was jointly founded by **Singapore Maritime Officers' Union** (SMOU) and **National Trades Union Congress** (NTUC) on 29 June 2000 in an attempt to venture into new frontiers and business opportunities. The Co-operative aims to promote opportunities for social interaction, cultural appreciation, healthy recreation and leisure activities on an economic co-operation basis, at the same time, create career opportunities for members in the maritime and/or other industries.

About Wavelink Maritime International

Wavelink Maritime International (WMI) Pte Ltd is a premier and professional organization dedicated to providing quality maritime education, training and consultancy services for both the local and international maritime community.

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